



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Date:

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DECISION MEMORANDUM FOR EDWARD T. SCHAFER, SECRETARY

THROUGH:

Mark Rey
Under Secretary, NRE

Mark Rey 10/14/08

FROM:

for Abigail R. Kimbell
Chief

Joel R. Schaffer
10/16/08

SUBJECT:

Resource Advisory Committees under P.L. 110-343

FILE CODE:

1350-2

ISSUE:

Section 601(a), division C, of the, "Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, Energy Improvement and Extension Act of 2008, and Tax Extenders and Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2008," Public Law 110-343, reauthorizes and amends the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS Act). The new law allows the Secretary of Agriculture to deem any eligible advisory committee or resource advisory committee to the Forest Service, which was established before September 29, 2006, as a resource advisory committee (RAC) for the purposes of P.L. 110-343.

BACKGROUND:

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS), P.L. 106-393, was enacted to provide transitional assistance to rural counties affected by the decline in revenue from timber harvests on federal lands. Title II, *Special Projects on Federal Land*, in the original Act created a mechanism for local community collaboration with federal land managers, through RACs, in recommending projects to be conducted on federal lands or that would benefit resources on federal lands. The structure and elements of Title II under the reauthorized and amended SRS Act remains intact in significant part, including RACs.

Section 205(a)(4) of P.L. 110-343 allows the Secretary of Agriculture to 'resuscitate' these RACs, including their charters and appointments, for the same purpose under the reauthorized and amended statute. The charters of the RACs would be renewed and appointments of members of the RACs would be renewed and extended for four years.



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2

OPTIONS:

(1) Do not resuscitate the RACs: Not resuscitating the RACs would require drafting and approval of 8 new charters covering 44 RACs, and the nomination and appointment of more than 660 new members, a process that could take in excess of 12 months to complete.

(2) Resuscitate the RACs: Resuscitating the RACs would require no additional action other than notification of RAC renewal, administrative amendment of existing charters as needed, and filling appointments of members who no longer wish to serve on a RAC.

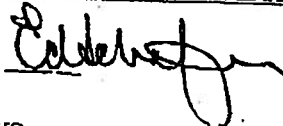
RECOMMENDATION:

Deem any advisory committee or resource advisory committee to the Forest Service that meets the requirements of Section 205 and that was established before September 29, 2006 as a resource advisory committee (RAC) for the purposes of the P.L. 110-343.

(Note, this is Option 2)

DECISION BY THE SECRETARY:

Approve



Date

20 Oct 08

Disapprove

Discuss with me

Reviewed by:

